

WRESTLING FORUM

MAY 30, 1991

VOLUME VI

ISSUE 8

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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FIRST, A MESSAGE TO YOUR LETTERCARRIER...

QUIT READING THIS AND DELIVER IT!!!

Two things to talk about here in the opening pages, but first, let's take care of the subscription information. This is *Wrestling Forum*, Wrestling's Best Kept Secret. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail the following day. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months worth at any one time (\$18.00). Please make checks and money orders payable to *Wrestling Forum*. All renewals, gift subscriptions, results, and other assorted information should be sent to *Wrestling Forum*, Box 65, Knoxville, IL 61448 unless otherwise specifically directed.

First on the agenda is the mailing of the Forum. All of the sorting of mail was moved some time ago from Galesburg (six miles from Knoxville) to Peoria (fifty miles from Knoxville). Evidently, the bozos down in the Peoria post office don't bother to read **FIRST CLASS MAIL** right by the stamp. Either that, or the recent increase in postage just bumped the cost of stamps above their IQ's. The issue that went out at the first of the month was "mailed" on May 4 from Galesburg. Jack the Ripper got hold of several and the result looked like Dusty Rhodes had gone crazy with the blade. When those started filtering their way back to me, I noticed they were postmarked May 8 - **FOUR DAYS LATER!!** The latest issue went out on May 20, early in the morning. As of this writing (May 27) many readers have not yet received their copy. I have written a detailed letter to both the postmaster in charge and to my congressman (who fought for the sorting to stay in Galesburg), and hopefully this issue will be resolved.

The second item up for discussion is an offer we received this past week. A subscriber has made an offer to purchase the Forum. In his letter he says that he would hate to see it just die and he doesn't want to start a bulletin from scratch. I have not accepted his offer, but he and I will be meeting sometime in the next six weeks to further discuss the possibility. I had once said that instead of just dropping the Forum, I would consider selling it, but I didn't think anyone would seriously be interested. If anyone else is interested, please feel free to contact me.

That's enough for this page, me thinks. All sorts of news and gossip to get to, so let's check in on the championship round of the Fifth Annual Wrestling Forum Tournament...

FIFTH ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT

by Sean Grande

Originally scheduled for this spot would have been the results of the championship round. However, since the mail service screwed around with the last couple of issues, combined with the fact that I moved from Boston to New York and used the same people to change my address that Jon used to send the bulletins, we had very few entries. We're just going to scrap the last set of ballots and do it all over again.

You will need to have your ballot to me **NO LATER THAN 6/18** because, once again, I'm going to drive the postal service insane by moving back to Boston on the 20th. Use the address listed below and get those ballots in!

Here are the championship round matches in the 5th Annual Wrestling Forum Tournament:

**FOR SEVENTH PLACE
RICK STEINER VS RANDY SAVAGE**

**FOR FIFTH PLACE
BRET HART VS GREAT MUTA**

**FOR THIRD PLACE
OWEN HART VS TED DIBIASE**

**CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH
RIC FLAIR VS CURT HENNIG**

**VOTING IS SIMPLE. PICK THE WRESTLER YOU THINK
WOULD WIN THESE MYTHICAL MATCH UPS AND SEND
THAT LIST OF WINNERS TO:**

**SEAN GRANDE
10 WATERSIDE PLAZA #26-A
NEW YORK, NY 10010**

4 I•N•D•E•P•E•N•D•E•N•T•L•Y S•P•E•A•K•I•N•G

Things are all set for the first independent Pay Per View in two years when Herb Abrams' UWF takes to the satellite on 6/9. Hopefully we'll have a full report for you on this next issue and we'll be treating it just like a Titan or Turner PPV. Here is the revised line up for the card:

Steve Williams vs Bam Bam Bigelow for the SportsChannel TV title; Ivan Koloff vs Bob Backlund in the seniors tour; Colonel DeBeers vs Paul Orndorff in a strap match; Terry Gordy vs Don Muraco in a street fight; Cactus Jack & Bob Orton vs Sonny Beach & Steve Ray with John Tolos suspended in a cage above the ring; Power Twins vs Brunzell & Blair; Blackharts vs Tony Atlas & Lethal Larry Cameron; plus there will be a woman's match with Rockin' Robin defending the ladies title. I believe the opponent will be Judy Martin, but the line up given to me still had that spot blank. Ticket prices for this card are outrageously priced at \$50 ringside, \$25 first level and \$15 upper level. I hope Abrams isn't planning on selling a lot of tickets.

Windy City Wrestling did a show on May 18 at the International Ampitheatre that featured the return of the Maxx Brothers. Promoter Sam DeCero came out of retirement to reprise his part of the team. The complete results can be found in the results section. Other notes of interest from the show had Frank the Tank Melson dropping the Windy City title to Ron Powers. Evidently we missed something along the way, because the last we knew, Hurricane Smith was still champion, having defeated Melson in Dixon Illinois. Smith was at the card and was set to wrestle, but another wrestler came down and wanted to wrestle Smith's opponent instead. Smith and manager Joey Baglia okayed the change, and Smith didn't work.

Lenny Poffo was also on the card and his father, Angelo Poffo, acted as his manager in his bout with Ken Patera. Patera had the full nelson locked in place at the end but Angelo interfered for the DQ.

On the same day, Joel Goodhart presented another show in Philadelphia that had a couple of no shows. Buddy Landell, missing a date in Florida to do this show, subbed for Austin Idol and Terry Funk was supposed to be there but was replaced by brother Dory Funk Jr. Results of this show can also be found in the results section.

Eddie Sharkey and Alan Eppenstein will be doing an independent card in Springfield IL on June 11 or 12 (heard both dates now) and we'll try to have a live report on that as well. Anyone from Central Illinois who is interested in getting together for that card, give me a call at (309) 289-2662.

PENCIL POINTS 5



EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the delay by the postal service with last issue (mailed on 5/20 and most were not received until 5/28), few of these letters deal with issues raised last time. Next issue's letter column should be more current.

HOGAN'S ROOKIE CARD

I took exception to your comments on the card dealer who had the Hulk Hogan rookie card last issue. The definition for a rookie card from *Beckett's Monthly Price Guide* is as follows: "This is THE rookie card. This is the player's first appearance on a regular issue card from one of the major card companies (presently Topps, Donruss, Fleer, Score or Upper Deck). Each company has ONLY one regular issue set and that is THE traditional set that is available virtually everywhere." Based on that information, even though Hogan has been wrestling since 1978, his first appearance was in fact on the cards issued by Titan a couple of years ago. Since there is no price guide for wrestling cards as there is with baseball, football, hockey and basketball, then the selling price is whatever the dealer can get. Just because you weren't interested in the card for the price he was asking is no sign someone else might not be.

•STEVE DECKER•
•PITTSBURGH, PA•

SUPERBRAWL

After seeing this weekend's Superbrawl, the WCW was right in not resigning Sid Vicious. The act they have to worry about keeping is the Steiners.

I have been a wrestling fan for many years and was privileged to see such teams as Crusher and Bruiser, the Vachons, Hennig and Race, Brunzell and Gagne, the Kangaroos, and many more. NEVER have I witnessed a team that is as polished and synchronized as Rick and Scott Steiner. Even against another babyface team, they proved why they were the best. Fans at ringside were not cheering for either team. They were cheering hot moves.

Think about this: Is there any other babyface team that could have gone in against Sting and Luger and not been booed? The Road Warriors? Forget it. The Rockers? Maybe by the teenyboppers, not by the entire crowd. The Young Pistols? Get serious!

The Steiners have single handedly brought a new era to wrestling. The trouble is, no one on the horizon will even come close to replacing them should they ever leave WCW. Titan can sign all the monsters they want. I'll

make sure I never miss another WCW card that the Steiners are on.

•KEN SNIDER•
•WAUKEGAN, IL•

WRESTLING GLOSSARY

I really liked your Wrestling Glossary. Here are a few additions:

Stiff – as in working stiff - same as working tight (or can also refer to someone who doesn't wrestle well).

Juice and Juiced – also apply to steroids and steroid use.

Dark Match – match at a TV taping which is not taped for television.

Work – opposite of a shoot.

Potato – a blindside punch that really hurts or causes injury, either intentional or accidental.

Angle – gimmick/program.

Ham n' Egger – a jobber.

•VIC STANLEY•
•LAYFAYETTE, IN•

PHILADELPHIA WRESTLING

Joel Goodhart is often praised for the wrestling he brings to Philadelphia in independent action. Every time I hear these praises lauded upon him, I get sick to my stomach.

In the beginning, Joel and two others ran a radio talk show in Philly. They read bulletins (specifically the Forum and the Observer) over the air without giving proper credit. They didn't paraphrase; they stole direct paragraphs. That was several years ago when they were bent on exposing the business.

Since that time, Joel has taken over the show by himself. The lady he had for a co host left the show after receiving anonymous threatening phone calls at home. I can only guess who was behind those. To my knowledge, Joel never received one and lo and behold, he became the sole host of the show.

He uses the show to promote his own shows. I can't fault him for that. But what I can fault him for is the fact that he uses his air time to tell people that WWF wrestling and WCW wrestling is fake, but his shows are real. I have a problem with that double standard.

After all this, he has the guts to charge premium prices for tickets; prices that would make the WWF blush. For who? Jerry Lawler? Eddie Gilbert? Jim Cornette? Sorry, but these guys aren't worth fifty bucks of my money.

I don't know how he treats his wrestlers, but as far as I'm concerned, he treats the fans like dirt.

•NAME WITHHELD BY EDITOR•
•PHILADELPHIA, PA•

World Championship Wrestling

We're going to handle the results of the SuperBrawl Pay Per View in a little different manner than usual. This may be the first ever PPV reported tag team style. My partner for this championship report will be Ed "The Phantom" Garea.

ED'S OPENING COMMENTS... "Mr. Rhodes' Neighborhood" After watching the Superbrawl PPV, I am convinced that Dusty "Lonesome" Rhodes should take over for Mr. Rogers. I could see it now, "The word for today, children, is 'interference.' Can you say 'interference?'" I thought you could. Out of 12 matches, four had some form of outside interference. Once Ol' Lonesome latches onto an idea he doesn't let it go. This was one of the few flaws in an otherwise good card of wrestling. Good wrestling has never been the NWA's problem. The problem is figuring good angles to go with good wrestling. On the other hand, the WWF has good angles (at least memorable) but lousy wrestling. One day someone will hit on the idea of combining the two and professional wrestling will be born.

FREEBIRDS VS YOUNG PISTOLS

ED: The idea of staging as US tag title match as the opener was a good idea. The only fly in the ointment is the fact that the Freebirds are as stale as yesterday donuts. Dallas Page is not good enough to be useless, and I don't get the "big Daddy Dink" angle at all, except as employment for Dusty's friends. The Young Pistols aren't bad, but seem to suffer from an identity crisis and the fact that the Rockers have been doing it longer – and better. The match wasn't half bad until some idiot in a bird costume called Fantasia interfered to give the Birds the victory. Give this match one big bird.
GRADE: D-

JON: The Pistols are now billed from Wyoming which is a few hundred miles north and west of where they were originally from. Funny... I've *never* heard of anyone actually claim to be from Wyoming! Anyway, Fantasia, (Brad Armstrong in a bargain basement Gobbledy-Gooker costume) came down while the ref was out and DDT'd both Tracy Smothers and brother Steve from the second rope to allow Hayes to get the pin. **TIME: 10:14**
GRADE: C+

DAN SPIVEY VS RICKY MORTON

ED: This would have been a good match except that announcers Jimbo and Lonesome gave away the finish before it started. Find a niche for Spivey and you may have something. **GRADE: C+**

JON: Nothing more than a glorified squash with Spivey winning it with a power bomb. Jim and Dusty kept reminding us that he was the master of the move so that hopefully we won't remember the last time they told us

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Sid was the master of it. **TIME: 3:10 GRADE: C**

NIKITA KOLOFF VS TOMMY RICH

ED: The only interesting feature of this match was that Nikita was billed from Lithuania. It's amazing how many Russians come from there, isn't it? Perhaps a turn is in the works? **GRADE: D+**

JON: Rich got to show some offense which was the only real surprise of the match. Nikita used the sickle to win. **TIME: 4:06 GRADE: C**

DUSTIN RHODES VS TERRY TAYLOR

ED: We all knew Nermal would win, but Taylor carried him well, and Nermal is improving. After all, he's going to be World Champ some day soon (mark my words) unless Lonesome gets his fat butt fired first. Alexandra York is great to look at, but as a manager she should go back to slinging pancake make up. Hopefully, she can only get better. **GRADE: C+**

JON: Dustin hit a bulldog, but the ref was distracted while arguing with Miss York. Mr. Hughes took his sweet time about putting on a loaded glove while Terry held Dustin, which gave the plumber's grandson time to regain his wits (both of them) and duck while Hughes belted Taylor. The ref turned just in time to see the pin. Hurrah for Mom, Justice and the American Way! It was a pretty good match. **TIME: 8:05 GRADE: B**

BIG JOSH BORNE VS BLACK BART

ED: The less said, the better. **GRADE: ZZZ**

JON: Ditto. **TIME: 3:45 GRADE: F**

OZ VS TIM PARKER

ED: This is the worst, the absolute worst, angle to come down the pike in years. Whoever thought this up can have a job as Saddam Hussein's PR person. To begin with, four people desperately in need of work are dressed up as Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion. They are led to see Oz by disguised Kevin Sullivan. Are they supposed to find out that Oz is a big stiff who can't wrestle to save his life? This skit was worthy of being the opening number at the Academy Awards show. In a word, Oz stinks. **GRADE: ZZZ**

JON: Huh? I didn't realize Kevin was disguised! It's hard to judge a match that only takes 26 seconds from bell to bell. Kevin Nash, who used to be one of the Master Blasters, is Oz. My first impression of him in this role is not much better than I had of the Master Blasters. I didn't grade the match but the angle was ten times worse than Ed described.

BARRY WINDHAM VS BRIAN PILLMAN

ED: About time we had a decent match, even if it had to carry the stipulation of "taped fist match." Barry is so great, his style reminding one of Ted DiBiase. Pillman has a way to go, but he keeps improving. **GRADE: A-**

JON: Good action throughout and it's obvious that Dusty has brought back the blade. Pillman was set to fly off the top ropes when Windham reached up and hit him in the crotch, superplexed him and pinned him. **TIME: 6:06 GRADE: B+**

EL GIGANTE VS SID VICIOUS

ED: Gee, what a surprise! They wanted to get this stretcher match over with so fast that they forgot to use the stretcher. They should have taken them both off on that stretcher and saved the audience from ten minutes or so of boredom. **GRADE: ZZZ**

JON: With the way Sid acted, I'm surprised he just didn't step in the ring and lay down and wait for the claw hold. Then again, that's basically what he did. You could hear the front row singing "Na-Na Hey Hey, Kiss Him Good Bye" after the match and it was all Sid could do to keep from busting a gut (not seen on camera).

RON SIMMONS VS BUTCH REED

ED: This cage match was what a cage match should be: nonstop action from beginning to end. Both wrestlers worked their butts off and made good use of the cage, so good in fact that the cage was coming apart by the end of the match. Teddy Long's attempted interference in the match actually worked for a change on this night. If handled right, Ron Simmons could be the next big superstar. Butch Reed did one hell of a job. **GRADE: A**

JON: A super effort by both guys. Not much I can add to what Ed said, other than to explain the ending. Teddy Long was suspended in a small cage above the ring and he dripped a chain down to Reed. He swung at Simmons, but Ron ducked and grabbed Reed by the waist. While everyone was expecting the usual atomic drop, he gave him the spine buster instead and got the pin. **TIME: 9:38 GRADE: A-**

STEINERS VS LUGER & STING

ED: The match of the night, or any other night this year, as far as I'm concerned. Except for the stupid interference of Nikita at the end, this was a perfect match with one ooh and aaah after another. Sting actually taking Steiner bumps! Amazing! When Sting leapt over the top rope on to Rick Steiner, the place exploded. Luger is one of the most improved wrestlers in the business today. The only thing that spoiled it was Nikita running in and clobbering Sting for the pin. **GRADE: A-**

JON: Tilt-A-Whirl slams, the flying bulldog, clotheslines, powerslams, and Sting's come-off-the-ropes,-grab-'em-by-the-hair-and-slam-'em-face-first-into-the-canvas were all a part of this match. It had everyone's hot moves (with the exception of the Frankensteiner) plus more. Definitely the highlight of the evening and a solid candidate for match of the year. Nikita ran in to clothesline Luger with the Russian chain (said "Made in Moscow" on every link) and got Sting by mistake. The Steiners, without turning heel, just took advantage of the situation and pinned him. **TIME: 11:08 GRADE: A+**

BOBBY EATON VS ARN ANDERSON

ED: Eaton is one of the great underrated wrestlers, so letting him win the TV title is a good idea, especially considering Anderson's injuries. This match could have been placed earlier in the card; the audience was too worn out from the tag match to properly give this one the cheering it deserved. Of

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course, we had to have attempted interference, this time in the form of Barry Windham, who was clobbered by Brian Pillman before he could reach the ring. The television people were so busy focusing on Pillman and Windham, they missed Eaton's pin of Anderson. **GRADE: A-**

JON: The attempted run in at the end was a waste of time and took away from a great match. Eaton and Anderson are both underrated by the average fan, but the work these two did seemed to enlighten even the densest of those fans. Not much else to add. **TIME: 11:49 GRADE: A**

RIC FLAIR VS TATSUMI FUJINAMI

ED: No surprise here, but a well worked match, almost as if it was held in Japan. The only sour note was that both wrestlers, especially Flair, looked their age. So steady that Flair's goofy bumps were delightfully conspicuous by their absence. Yet not as good as their first encounter. **GRADE: B+**

JON: Must have been a communication problem during the match because there were several missed moves. Now let's be honest...if this would have been a Hogan match and he'd have missed this many moves, the sheets and inside fans would have crucified him for it. I doubt we'll see that in the sheets for Flair. Fujinami looked like he got real tired of Flair's chops (I don't blame him) because he tried to cover up when they were coming or he just moved out of position. They tried to bridge up with Fujinami on the bottom on his back and Flair on his back on Fujinami's stomach. They tried it twice and they didn't have the strength to do it either time. Referee Tiger Hatori got wiped out when Fujinami tried a rolling reverse. Flair pushed Fujinami into Hatori and then grabbed a handful of trunks to pull him into a schoolboy. Bill Alphonso, standing by at ringside wasted no time jumping in and tolling the three count on Fujinami. **TIME: 18:25 GRADE: B+**

ED'S NOTEBOOK: Missy Hyatt was typically embarrassing in her "interview" segment as Stan Hansen once again threw her out of the locker room. Diamond Dallas Page, on the other hand, isn't even good enough to be embarrassing. He's just boring. Even his introduction of the Diamond Studd (Scott Hall) was boring. Teddy Long, who in this Phantom's opinion is the best manager in the game right now, brought on his new protege, Johnny B Badd (Mark Morrow), a parody of Little Richard. If Johnny wrestles like his gimmick, head for the exits. The new talent introduced last night does not give one hope for the future. Oz may make Stiff Vicious look like Pat O'Connor, he's that bad.

JON'S NOTEBOOK: They had a live wireless mike on Dallas Page, and I'll bet it's a long time before they try that again. He didn't have a clue as to when it was on and was giving directions prior to his entrances. That wasn't his fault, that was the fault of the sound engineer. What was his fault was after he walked off and uttered Mean Gene Okerlund's famous line. Johnny B Badd looks like he'll be a favorite target here for lampooning. Before coming in, he must have had plenty of time to watch TV because he was telling us all, "I'm a bad man!" like Mohammed Ali does in the *Sports*

illustrated commercials. Stan Hansen was a guest on the Danger Zone, but neither Ed nor I can figure out why. We've narrowed it down to two reasons: 1) to set up his upcoming feud with Dustin and/or 2) to further repulse us with his tobacco chewing. Yech. Dusty was almost bearable at the color spot, and Jim Ross did his usual good job as well. Several of our readers could be spotted at ringside, sitting in the front couple of rows courtesy of Paul Spiegel. Also, a lot of wrestlers from the Sunshine Wrestling Alliance were in the front row as well.

In some other news and notes, Billy Jack Haynes has already debuted as "Black Blood," part of Kevin Sullivan's band of weirdoes. We're told that so far, the reaction to him is about as warm as the rest of Sullivan's group which is about the temperature of dry ice. Don't know why they keep Sullivan around; he doesn't sell any tickets and his ideas are always so off the wall that nobody really cares about them.

This next may be one of those famous planted stories, so be forewarned. I'm being told that if we see a Ric Flair vs Lex Luger match on the Great American Bash PPV, the title will change hands. How many times have we heard that. The informant cited several things to justify his point. The interference by Nikita Koloff is setting up a feud with him and Sting, rather than Nikita and Lex. This frees up Luger to take the belt and *then* start with Koloff. What's this do for Sting? Not a whole lot.

During the Pay Per View, they listed the Great American Bash tour. It will begin on July 3 in the Meadowlands and conclude on 8/25 at the Omni in Atlanta. July 14 will be the next PPV from Baltimore. The rest of the dates are as follows:

7/4 WILDWOOD, NJ; 7/5 PHILADELPHIA; 7/6 NORFOLK, VA; 7/7 RICHMOND, VA; 7/8 COLUMBUS, GA; 7/13 GREENVILLE, SC; 7/15 SALISBURY, MD; 7/16 INDIANAPOLIS, IN; 7/17 DAYTON, OH; 7/18 CLEVELAND, OH; 7/19 CHARLESTON, WV; 7/20 CINCINNATI, OH; 7/21 KNOXVILLE, TN; 7/22 NASHVILLE, TN; 7/23 LOS ANGELES, CA; 7/24 SAN DIEGO, CA; 7/25 SAN BERNADINO, CA; 7/26 OAKLAND, CA; 7/27 PHOENIX; 7/28 EL PASO, TX; 7/29 SAN ANTONIO, TX; 7/30 CORPUS CHRISTI, TX; 7/31 NEW ORLEANS, LA; 8/1 SPRINGFIELD, MO; 8/2 ST. LOUIS, MO; 8/3 KANSAS CITY, MO; 8/4 TOPEKA, KS; 8/5 ST. JOSEPH, MO; 8/6 SIOUX CITY, IA; 8/8 MYRTLE BEACH, SC; 8/9 CHARLOTTE, NC; 8/10 GREENSBORO, NC; 8/11 ROANOKE, VA; 8/12 GAINESVILLE, GA; 8/13 AUGUSTA, GA; 8/14 LA CROSSE, WI; 8/15 ST PAUL, MN; 8/16 GREEN BAY, WI; 8/17 CHICAGO; 8/18 MILWAUKEE, WI; 8/19 BATTLE CREEK, MI; 8/20 SAGINAW, MI; 8/21 MIAMI, FL; 8/22 FORT PIERCE, FL; 8/23 ST PETERSBURG, FL; 8/24 JACKSONVILLE, FL

BIO

JERRY LAWLER

REAL NAME: JERRY LAWLER

YEAR DEBUTED: 1971

CURRENT STATUS: USWA CHAMPION

Jerry Lawler's entry into professional wrestling is a long, classic story. While attending Memphis State University on an art scholarship, he landed a part time job as a sign painter for Fargo/Bond Sign Company. The job would have immediate effect on Lawler's career.

Fargo was Jackie Fargo, Memphis wrestling legend. Bond was Eddie Bond, a country western radio personality. Bond got Lawler his start in radio after he graduated and Fargo supplied wrestling personalities of on air interviews.

Hanging around Fargo and the wrestlers made Jerry want to get in the business. He was given his chance in the early seventies, starting off as a preliminary wrestler

Beginning as a heel, he worked the undercards in the Memphis area for a time before latching onto the king gimmick. He began wearing the "Imperial Margarine" crown to the ring and quickly became a lead heel.

Since that time, he has turned only a few times, having most of his success as a babyface.

He was approached in 1981 with a novel idea. Comedian Andy Kauffman, who appeared on TV's Taxi, had been doing a comedy routine that involved wrestling females. Kauffman wanted to get in the ring with a real wrestler and approached Titan Sports with the idea. Vince McMahon Sr. vetoed the scheme and Kauffman was left to find a smaller independent that might be interested.

After goading Jerry Lawler into a match at the Mid South Coliseum, in which Lawler piledrove Kauffman twice, the two appeared on the David Letterman show together. Fooling everyone in America, including wrestlers alike, Lawler slapped Kauffman out of his chair on the set. It wasn't until many years later that Lawler would admit that this was a work.

By 1985, Jerry had established himself as a major draw, but only in Memphis. The promotion at the time worked actively with both the NWA and AWA. Jim Crockett promised Lawler the NWA belt and Lawler went on record as saying that if he didn't win either the NWA or AWA title by the end of 1985, he would retire.

Crockett reconsidered the offer and refused to let Ric Flair drop the strap to Lawler. Jerry Jarrett and Eddie Marlin petitioned the AWA to allow Lawler

to take their title for a short period of time, but the AWA, thinking they might be able to gain a foothold in the Memphis Market with Lawler out of the way, also declined.

Lawler finally won the AWA title from Curt Hennig on May 9, 1988 before a packed Mid South Colosseum. Working with both the AWA and World Class promotions, Lawler defeated Kerry Von Erich in December 1988 to claim the Unified World's Championship. He was stripped of the AWA belt when refusing to work a show and kept the belt despite Verne Gagne's howls and protests.

Since that time, he has spent most of his time being world Unified champion as recognized in Memphis and Dallas. He turned heel last year, only to be turned babyface after just a few months.

Known throughout the Memphis area, Lawler's personal appearances and charity work are the subject of many local newspaper stories. He has a softball team that competes against other local teams with all proceeds going to charity. He also has a sports talk show on the NBC affiliate in Memphis which airs on Sunday mornings.

As a booker, Lawler has had tremendous success. His first six months as the helm usually means an upswing in business. He has created several characters including turning pig farmer Jim Harris into Kamala and teaming the Rock and Roll Express for the first time. He is also credited with giving Jim Cornette his start in wrestling as well as giving Cornette his first gag book.

At one time or another, he has brought many of wrestling's top names to Memphis. One myth that is associated with Lawler is that he holds a pinfall victory over Hulk Hogan. Although he did wrestle Hogan in the Coliseum (for trivia buffs, Jimmy Hart was Hogan's manager on that night), his victory was via count out.

Several times during his career, he has ventured out of the Memphis area seeking fame and fortune, but for some reason, cannot draw on a national basis.

At age 41, Lawler is currently taking some time off from wrestling. His son Brian is now working opening matches on Memphis cards, though it has never been mentioned that they are father-son.

He is part owner of Jarrett Promotions, a fact he denies in the sheets but proclaims in the Memphis daily newspaper the *Commercial Appeal*.

Comparatively, he is a lot like Johnny Carson. Several outlaw promotions have started in Lawler's backyard, but have never survived longer than a few months. Jerry does nothing special to insure their demise other than his usual work for Jarrett.

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This should give you an idea of what these guys are going to have to go through in the next couple months. There are no cities scheduled between 7/9 and 7/12 and the next day off before the 25th of August is 8/7. That's a long hard road!

Last issue we reported on WCW trading cards. Several phone calls have let us know that this was the second set of cards produced. There is a 1991 set that is currently hitting the stores. This set has at least 150 cards and is printed on white card stock with color photos front and back. The border on the front of the card is colorful, somewhat reminiscent of Donruss baseball cards. The back features a bio on the featured wrestler and unlike last year's, wrestlers who have more than one card have more than one back. In my humble opinion, I liked last year's fronts better and this year's backs better. Twelve cards come to a pack and retail for between 59¢-75¢.

I was watching the WWF this weekend and saw Barry Windham in action. All of a sudden, a giant rat came to ringside and beat him up. The rat pulled off his head to reveal Brian Pillman underneath. I started looking for snakes and alligators and stuff, before realizing that Windham and Pillman had not jumped to the WWF and what I was watching was in fact World Championship Wrestling on TBS. Combine that with Oz and you can't tell the promotions apart without a scorecard!

Dusty is now hosting a segment call the Bull Drop In, a cute play on words that I'm told is Dusty's way of poking fun at himself. Supposedly he was told that the sheets would have a field day with this and he just smiled and said okay. Basically the spot is there for the other wrestlers to kiss the boss' behind.

Diamond Studd (Scott Hall) is doing a Rick Rude type entrance and ring intro. Dallas Page selects a lady from the audience to come into the ring and pull his snap on-velcro pants off. Nothing like good wholesome family entertainment.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

by Sean B Hendrick

SOME THOUGHTS AND RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

At first, I didn't care much for the "Funeral Parlor" on the Superstars Show, but then I got to thinking about it and realized that when I was younger, I lived for the Saturday afternoon horror movies. That is all the segment is really about. Anyway, I did love the angle with the Undertaker and Warrior and the coffin.

Is it just me, or is anybody else happy to see that Vince finally found some other type of clothing from those leisure suits that could probably withstand a nuclear attack?

Too bad Lance Russell is fading from the WCW scene. I wonder if Titan treated him the same way, how many people would be screaming.

Now that Hogan has the belt back, I wonder how they will get it off him when the time comes.

Why did they switch Rid Flair's entrance music? The old stuff was perfect.

Why is Paul E Dangerously always so angry?

I thought the options for year end voting were limited last year, but this year will be ridiculous!

The finish in the WCW Japan Supershow was okay, but lots of people felt that World Championship Wrestling was coming off as a bunch of whiners in how the handled it.

Mike Rotundo has got to hate his wrestling gear...And doesn't Ricky Steamboat look thrilled to be doing what he's doing?

Roddy Piper has done some shows for Zorro on the Family Channel that were pretty good, and Terry Funk had a shot on USA's Swamp Thing.

Is it me, or has Jim Ross lost a step since being paired up with Paul E?

The graphics and ads for Superbrawl look great, all except that Oz thing.

There are some pretty good typographical errors on some of the WCW packaging for its wrestling dolls such as "SOOTT STIENER."

Good to see Kevin Sullivan dig in his drawers and pull out some fun props for the One Man Gang.

Why is the Iron Mustafa doing the Bushwhacker walk?

They taped a few Rumble Seat segments for the IWCCW in downtown Rochester as part of an advertising expo. Tony Rumble was not interested in talking to any fans (all one of me) though.

I wonder how the average WWF fan will react to the wrestlers and their physiques now that they are showing some of the World Bodybuilding Federation monsters on the show.

I really love the new Prime Time, especially the spray paint message on the wall on the opener, "This Sucks."

In tag matches with the Bushwhackers, when Butch is getting beat on and tags in Luke, shouldn't that be called a "Luke-warm tag?"

Maybe I'm losing it, but I really have enjoyed the last few Barbarian matches I've seen.



with help from **Bill Burnett**

Jerry Lawler has returned to Memphis, though he has yet to step in the ring. He has been mike-side for the past couple of weeks and promises to return to action next Saturday.

Meanwhile, remember all those loser leave the USWA matches we told you about last issue? Well, the USWA has figured out a way to kill that gimmick match by finding technicalities that allow wrestlers to return.

The first involves Bill Dundee and Eric Embry. Dundee was pinned in the match against Dundee but there had been a ref bump and in the classic Bob Backlund-Greg Valentine MSG finish of a decade ago, the groggy ref raised Dundee's hand by mistake. This led to a film clip of a meeting that was held in Eddie Marlin's office with both sides shouting and arguing over who would leave and who wouldn't. The whole thing came down to a rematch between Dundee and Embry with the loser definitely leaving. But hold the phone. In the rematch, Embry pinned Dundee and there was no doubt in anyone's mind who had to leave. On the next Saturday morning show, however, Bill and Jamie Dundee came out together with the announcement that they had made up. Jamie found a loophole in the contract. The contract said that "William" Dundee could not wrestle for 30 days. Jamie explained that his name was really "William Jamie Dundee" and because of that, he was willing to sit out the suspension for his dad.

In the second technicality, Downtown Bruno returned and explained that even though he had lost, the contract had said that he couldn't *wrestle* in the next 30 days. It didn't say anything about boxing or karate matches. As a result, he will be doing some karate glove matches around the horn this week.

Remember how disgusted and outraged fans got when Terry Funk pulled the plastic bag angle with Ric Flair a couple years ago? Time to get upset again. This time it involves Robert Fuller. He and Jeff Jarrett have teamed up and currently hold the USWA version of the world tag team title. They ousted the Texas Hangmen in a loser leave bout. During a TV match, Tex Slinger and the Master Blaster, Fuller and Jarrett's newest nemeses, did a run in and put a plastic bag over Fuller's head. He was left for dead at the commercial break and when they came back, the babies were doing CPR on him. Later in the show, he came out and used the K word (kill) while the switchboard of the TV station lit up like a Christmas tree. Lawler, who was doing color on the show, managed to calm things down a bit by leading Fuller off the set and downplaying the angle for the rest of the show. Things must be pretty bad in Memphis for them to have to resort to this kind of crap.

In a squash match a couple weeks ago, Ben Jordan, who was receiving a limited push, was in against Bob Golden. Jordan came off the ropes and

potatoed Golden with a dropkick, knocking him cold. Jordan didn't realize it and tried to pick him up to finish him off, but Golden wasn't going anywhere. The ref had to tap Jordan on the shoulder and tell him to finish it then and there. When they came back from commercial, they were still trying to get an unconscious Golden out of the ring. We're not sure if it was the dropkick that did it or whether he hit his head on the mat on the way down.

Eric Embry was in the middle of a squash match on TV when a masked wrestler hit the ring and destroyed him. The guy hopped out of the ring and said he was the Lone Ranger, but we wouldn't have to wait till Monday night to find out who he was. He pulled off the mask to reveal Doug Gilbert. He said that he had taken the past several weeks off to recover from the pile driver Embry and Pritchard had used on him (Gilbert did a squash for PN News on WCW last week - must have been part of his therapy) and now he was back for revenge. They're playing him to up to be a little on the crazy/insane side and are comparing him to Roughhouse Fargo. His new name is "Wild Eyed" Doug Gilbert.

Eddie, in the meantime, claims to be Doug's Tonto. He has finished up his feud with the Dirty White Boy which resulted in DWB turning to a semi-babyface. Previously, Eddie and DWB had been involved in a feud that had had Gilbert hitting him with a fireball in the tummy. In a rematch, there was a referee bump (more and more a popular finish in Memphis) and Tom Pritchard did a run in. DWB held Eddie for Dr. Tom but Eddie ducked when Pritchard swung and he hit DWB instead. They got into a shoving match that led to Pritchard posting DWB.

The Texas Ranger is in also. He wears chaps and stuff to the ring, including a bandana like an old western bank robber used to wear. His gimmick is to bring a bull rope to the ring and hog tie his opponent after the match. Anybody want to put money on whether he'll be in a bullrope match before long? If he sticks around that is.

That was the problem with another wrestler who was getting a super push. Hurricane Walker came in with a good push, and even made some two on one saves. He got Monday night win over Tom Pritchard and then all of a sudden, he disappeared. No word on if he'll be back or not.

Jarrett and Fuller won their Monday night match against Salinger and Blaster. While the ref was distracted or out, they delivered a stuff piledriver to one of the heels to get a win.

The final non-Lawler card will be this Monday night with the three main matches being DWB vs Tom Pritchard, Jarrett/Fuller vs Blaster/Salinger (2 Of 3 falls) and the Gilberts vs Embry and Pritchard.

In This Corner...

Eric Hoyme
Indianapolis, Indiana

a guest editorial

SUPPORTING A HABIT

As many of you may know, Eric Hoyme is not my real name. I am the independent wrestler who wrote "A Week With the Fed" and because of that, I've always asked Jon not to reveal my real name or exactly where I'm from.

Several issues ago, Jon attempted to psychoanalyze independent wrestlers who seemingly have no talent, yet continue to work. Some work just once or twice a month, others more regularly. Some do not hold another job, using the thinking that if wrestling is the only thing they do, then they don't have to fall back on something else to support them.

I once met a couple of fellow independent wrestlers, neither of whom are still involved in wrestling. Both had unique part time jobs.

The first fellow, let's call Glen (for lack of a better name). Glen would almost work for free for Titan or Crockett because he knew that would draw a big crowd. See, what Glen would do is wrestle in the opening bout and collect his \$25-\$50 and then head for the parking lot. He would go around and look in every car window. If he saw a car with the keys in the ignition, he would open the door, lock it, and then slam it, locking the keys in the car. Glen carried a slim jim (a locksmith's car opening tool) in his car and after people would come out of the matches, he was there to open locked cars at \$10-20 (depending on how fancy the car was or how rich the people looked). He would pull in anywhere from \$50-100 bucks an night doing that, and he never got caught.

Later, he expanded business. He had a buddy who had a tow truck. Cars that were unlocked with no keys in the ignition would get their lights turned on. The battery would run down and there was Glenn's buddy, ready and willing to jump start people at \$15-20 a pop. Glen and his buddy split the take. Running these two scams netted Glen more money per night than wrestling did. Especially when he worked for the WWF or NWA.

My second acquaintance was a little less ethical and honest. He stole stuff from cars. Nothing you would miss at a quick glance. Maybe it was a couple of eight track or cassette tapes, or a nice coat or jacket. Sometimes he'd actually break in and take a tool set. He'd hit four or five cars a night and get enough stuff to sell to pawn shops or fencers to more than equal a night's pay (he worked in the early seventies). His problem was that while on a mini tour, he sold some stuff to a pawn dealer and the stuff had been stole from the dealer's son's car the night before. He got six months, I think.

The moral to this story is simple. When you go to the matches, lock your car and take your keys. And be leery of tow trucks hiding in the shadows.

World Wrestling Federation

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Last week, the rumor wouldn't stop. This week, it has been professionally squelched. Titan officials, when asked, vehemently deny it. The rumor? It has been alleged that four or five Titan wrestlers have tested positive for the HIV virus. If true, this would not mean that they have AIDS, just the virus that leads to it.

Personally, I doubt the rumor. I think it is the natural backlash caused by the *Globe's* story on Ultimate Warrior several weeks ago. Not one of the people who called here with the rumor were able to supply even ONE NAME of a wrestler who was infected. The only thing that gives it the least bit of credence is the way it was hushed up so quickly. Rumors that are not true (witness the "deaths" of Warrior, Monsoon and Orndorff) seem to last forever.

Speaking of Paul Orndorff, he may be back in Titanland. Sid Vicious, a good friend of Paul's, has requested him for a manager. Last look, Paul was a baby in Titan having split with the Heenan family. Of course, Titan has never been a company to respect history. If it suited their storyline, they'd let people know that George Washington was not the first president as we all have been led to believe.

I've watched the last couple weeks worth of Prime Time Wrestling. Though it's still a far cry from culture as we know it, it has been getting better and better. The USA network came down on them pretty hard for the Paul Bearer skit where he was slinging intestines across the stage and Vince lightened things up when he saw that the WWF's days were numbered if he didn't. Bobby Heenan, although still a heel, has been downplaying his role as of late as well. Sources tell me that he knows he's close to getting out of the physical part and into the office, and that he may want to go out as a babyface. Knowing Heenan, I'd say the chances of that are those of the proverbial snowball in Hell.

Although the Destruction Crew didn't do well on their first tryout and weren't even invited for a second, it looks like they may have a start date anyway. From what we're hearing, they will be a blond team and call themselves the Blond Bombers or something equally as catching. The big story here, is not their coming in, but we are also told that their manager is to be John Tolos. Tolos is also mentioned as being Sid Vicious' manager as well as the rumored Orndorff.

Bruce Pritchard's departure from Titan is now official. Pritchard, better known as Brother Love, had been one of the producers of the syndicated shows before being replaced earlier in the year. His duties were further curtailed when he was taken off the Brother Love spot. Now, with little to do, Titan has finally released him. One Titan source speculated that he will wind up with WCW, though no one at WCW cared to speculate on the suggestion.

NBC TV may be pulling the plug on Saturday Night's Main Event. The ratings for the last few shows have dipped dramatically over the last year and

20 Titan's relationship with NBC has been tenuous at best. The network has changed around the time slot a couple of times, once resulting in a title change being nullified. The latest special was not hyped in TV Guide the way it usually is and commercials during regular NBC broadcasts were cut down from normal. This is quite a switch from their original stance when Saturday Night's Main Event first aired. At that time, there was talk of making the show a once a month event. Titan had used the show to set up major angles and to be a sales tool for their Pay Per Views. No doubt NBC wasn't happy about letting an hour and a half of their broadcast be used to sell something on cable TV.

I thought that a few of the Titan people that were calling here and calling the Funeral Parlor "Brother Death" were just a little mixed up. That's probably how it all got started was somebody being mixed up. "Brother Death" has become the "name" of the segment among Titanites, wrestlers and front office people alike. No word on how Percy reacts to the handle.

TV tapings were done the past week, but we've yet to receive a report on them. I'm told that the Destruction Crew's start date was to have been at the tapings, but reports on that taping won't be available until after our deadline.

You are all aware of the uncanny knack Titan has for booking shows the night before in the same city as WCW pay Per Views. Several readers who attended Superbrawl live report that on a radio show in Florida, Jerry Brisco was asked why this happens. Jerry informed the caller that Titan books its arenas two years in advance. They cut the caller off before he could ask for hip boots and a shovel.

Mike Rotundo's IRS character is named Irwin R. Shyster, but that's kind of hard to remember. One caller here suggested that we remember that IRS really stands for I'm a Real Schmuck.

Titan has booked an outdoor show, the first one in more than two years, at Busch Stadium in St. Louis for July 14. As reported last time around, Titan has pulled its bookings from the Arena in St. Louis because they agreed to rent the building to WCW, so this is an attempt to sabotage several things. First, the Titan lineup for that night is stacked with Hogan versus Slaughter with babyface Randy Savage as referee plus Undertaker vs Warrior in a coffin match (loser is carried out in a coffin). It's an attempt to pull fans away from the WCW show at the Arena which will feature a Bash show on 7/16. The management at the Arena are not happy with Titan pulling their bookings and they are even less happy about them running a show in direct competition (which they consider is direct competition when running within two weeks of their show). Word has it that WCW has hired Chief Thunderbump, the most famous Indian Rain Dancer in North America for the 14th.

Of course, this is all coincidence as Busch Stadium was no doubt among the arenas booked two years ago.

BERMANISMS FOR WRESTLERS

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You may not know Chris Berman, but surely you've heard of his work. Chris is the ESPN sportscaster who comes up with all the wild and crazy nicknames for sports stars, like Frank "Strings" Viola or "Fettucini" Alfredo Griffin. We thought we'd come up with a few for some of our favorite sport's participants...

Ric "micro tip" Flair
"Blue" Barry Windham
Demolition "Orange" Crush
Tom "Crushed" Stone
Bret "and Butter" Hart
Roddy "Pied" Piper
Bobby "You are what you" Eaton
Jim "With a hundred & ten" Cornette "Right behind"
Michael "Purple" Hayes
Buddy "One If By" Landell
Paul E. "Living" Dangerously
Lex "9 millimeter" Luger
Brian "Sugar coated" Pillman
Harley "Human" Race
Tommy "Rags &" Rich
Larry "I am not a cookie" Zbyszko
Johnny Ace "in the hole"
Matt "Burns" Borne
Steve "Barbie" Doll
Austin "City Limits" Idol
Stan "Penny" Lane
Ricky "Minute" Rice
Adrian "One Way" Street
Jack "Looking for my first" Victory
Bobby "Socks and poodle skits" Heenan
and of course our staff members
Jon "Just me and my" Gallagher
Sean "Rio" Grande
Ed "Magilla" Garea
Sean "I sing even better than Jimmy" Hendrick

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

5/18 CHICAGO (IND) – courtesy of **KEN SNIDER**...Turbo beat Shogun Assassin...Mike Anthony over Trevor Blanchard...Dream Warriors/Sonny Rogers beat Jonnie Mercedes/Mike Sampson/Zebra Kid...Nacho Bararra defeated Air Force...Ondi Austin beat Lisa Starr...Russian Brute squashed Curly Rich...Luscious Leroy pinned Lane Christopher...Steve Regal over Cody Hunter...Captain Fantastic and KC Knight went to a no contest...Ron Powers beat Frank Melson for Windy City Title...Ken Patera beat Lenny Poffo by DQ...Maxx Brothers went to a no contest with the Untouchables...**NOTES:** Att: 1500...Ondi Austin is the best women's wrestler in the US...Curly Rich is a Curly Howard imitation that Titan ought to go after...final match was wild affair with a giant pull apart brawl at the end.

5/18 PHILADELPHIA – courtesy of a **HOST OF READERS**...PittBulls won a battle royal...Johnny Hotbody/Larry Winters beat Rockin' Rebel/Jim Janetty...Eddie Gilbert DDQ Cactus Jack...Fabulous Ones defeated Al Perez/Buddy Landell...DC Drake pinned JT Smith...Jerry Lawler over Honky Tonk Man by reverse decision...Paul Orndorff by DQ over Rick Rude...**NOTES:** Att: 1000 (averaged from 5 reports)...Jack & Eddie had barbed wire match and Jack nearly sliced off an ear...Honky Tonk won with a chain, but the ref saw it and reversed the decision. Dory Funk Jr did a run in and he and Honky Tonk left Lawler for dead.

5/19 PITTSBURGH (WWF) – courtesy of **STEVE DECKER**...IRS pinned Superfly Snuka (D)...Duggan beat Iron Mustafa (ZZ)...Steamboat pinned Brooklyn Brawler (C-)...Warrior over Undertaker by DQ (B)...Road Warriors by COR over Nasty Boys (D+)...Bret Hart defeated Barbarian (B)...Quake beat Jake by DQ (F)...Hennig drew Davey Boy (B+)...**NOTES:** Att: 5500...Fans were upset throughout by the lack of clean finishes...Nasty Boys just walked out of the ring and back to the dressing room for their count out loss...The last match was scheduled for 45 minutes but went less than twenty till the bell rang and they announced a draw.

5/27 TAMPA (SWA) – courtesy of **SHANNON ROSE**...Sgt. Ray the Bull pinned Iraqi Assassin...Mr. Sony T over Jaba Rouk...Jim Magnum defeated Grizzly Bear Ray by DQ...Dynamite Express over Nuclear Assassins by DQ...Jerry Flynn drew Beef Wellington...Playboy Jeff James defeated James Dupree..**NOTES:** Att: 50

5/31 TAMPA (UWF) – courtesy of **SHANNON ROSE**...Ricky Grand drew Kyle Davis...Big Sonny T drew Bill Borea...Tom Driggers beat Paul Sampson by DQ...Charlie King Braden over Big Jim Magnum...Al Hardimon/Haiti Kid Burto beat Jimmy Hard Times/Charlie Fields...Big V pinned Nasty Ned Brady...**NOTES:** Att: 175...Jim the Animal Cooper interfered in Driggers-Sampson match...Tag match was Texas tornado match.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Check out the latest edition of *Mad Magazine* for their latest lampooning of wrestling. The back cover features Mad's Snappy Answers to Stupid Wrestling Questions. Boy could we have collaborated on that!

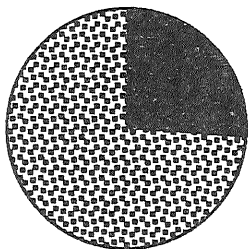
Those of you who ordered yearbooks now have them in your hands. They came along with this bulletin. Those of you who didn't, the printer did print up four extra copies and you may order one if you hurry. \$12.50 is the price and an extra \$1.50 if you want first class postage instead of book rate.

I have filed a complaint with the postal inspectors regarding the treatment of the Forum in the mails. Evidently, the folks in Peoria have been treating it as third class mail rather than first. Foreign subscribers are getting this issue along with last because it took the post office two weeks to decide they weren't suitable for mailing the way we did, and to return them to us.

Our congratulations go out to staff member SEAN GRANDE who graduated this past month from Boston University with a bachelor of science degree in journalism. I guess that makes him the only staff member who is actually qualified to write for this bulletin. He hopes to go into sports journalism and possibly broadcasting. Hard to believe that when he first joined Wrestling Forum, he was still in high school! Congrats, Pal! Do good!

Here are the latest "unhappy" totals, but we suspect a lot of this is due to the delay in the mail. At least we hope so.

goal



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WE'RE SORRY!

IN THIS ISSUE, IT SAYS THAT THE YEARBOOK IS INCLUDED WITH THIS MAILING. THAT'S BECAUSE WHEN WE TOOK THE BULLETIN TO BE PRINTED, WE WERE ASSURED BY THE OWNER THAT THE YEARBOOK WOULD BE DONE. HE HAS HAD THE FINISHED PRODUCT SINCE THE MIDDLE OF APRIL AND I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE HELL THE DELAY IS. PLEASE BEAR WITH US. I HAVE GIVEN HIM UNTIL NEXT FRIDAY TO PRODUCE WHAT WE ORDERED OR WE WILL BE CHANGING PRINTERS. IF WE HAVE TO TAKE OUR ORIGINALS (THANK GOD FOR COMPUTERS AND HARD DRIVES), PHOTO COPY THEM AND BIND THEM OURSELVES, IT WILL BE TO YOU NEXT ISSUE OR REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED. AGAIN, WE ARE SORRY FOR THE DELAY, BUT AT THIS POINT, THERE'S NOT A THING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

Don Gallagher Editor-Wrestling Forum